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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 13, 2008

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CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER PROPOSES \$1.6 MILLION IN PENALTIES TO THE MAXWELL PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT IN COLUSA COUNTY

SACRAMENTO – The city of Maxwell Public Utilities District faces \$1,617,000 in penalties for violations of effluent limitations at the district's wastewater treatment plant.

The Assistant Executive Officer of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued a tentative Administrative Civil Liability Order for assessment of mandatory minimum penalties for violations of effluent limitations at the district's wastewater treatment plant.

The penalty represents the sum of the statutory mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) for effluent limitation violations that occurred at the wastewater treatment plant from January 1, 2000 through April 30, 2008. The district violated the effluent limitations for ammonia, biochemical oxygen demand, chlorine residual, total suspended solids, total coliform organisms, and turbidity.

The California Water Code allows a publicly owned treatment works serving a small community with a financial hardship to complete a compliance project in lieu of paying the penalties. The city of Maxwell meets the definition, and is in the process of spending over \$8 million to construct a new wastewater treatment plant that will correct the violations.

The tentative order provides that, in lieu of paying the mandatory minimum penalties, the discharger may apply the penalty towards its compliance project, as long as the project is operational by May 18, 2010. The public is asked to provide any comments by August 27, 2008. If the Regional Water Board receives new information, it may withdraw and modify the tentative order or it may schedule the matter for a hearing at its regular public board meeting on October 23 or 24, 2008.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency tasked with preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources.